

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05042 141952Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EA-10 AID-05 /046 W
-----106268 150456Z /62

R 141752Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5475
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 05042

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN INTEREST IN INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 61868

1. WE DISCUSSED INDOCHINESE REFUGEE MATTERS AND BELGIAN
EMBASSY OFFICER'S CALL ON HA/ORM WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY
REFUGEE AFFAIRS OFFICER MARCH 14. HE TOLD US THAT CALL
ON HA/ORM WAS NOT RESULT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY INSTRUCTIONS
AND THAT NO REPORT OF THE CALL HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED BY
THE MINISTRY.

2. FOLLOWING IS UPDATE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEE SITUATION
IN BELGIUM SINCE 77 BRUSSELS 10125. BELGIAN 1977 PROGRAM
TO RESETTLE 150 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES HAS PRACTICALLY
TERMINATED. CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT AND LIBERAL VOLUNTEER
AGENCY GROUPS HAVE JOINTLY WRITTEN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET
SUGGESTING THAT A NEW PROGRAM DESIGNED TO RESETTLE 200
INDOCHINESE REFUGEES BE STARTED AT ONCE. FOREIGN MINISTER
HAS NOT YET ACTED ON REQUEST. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE HAD
PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN TO FOREIGN MINISTER SUGGESTING THAT
BELGIUM TAKE AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF BOTH INDOCHINESE
AND LATIN AMERICAN REFUGEES AND BEEN REFUSED. FOREIGN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05042 141952Z

MINISTER'S REFUSAL WAS PARTIALLY REVERSED DUE TO LEFTIST
PRESSURES TO TAKE SOME ARGENTINE POLITICAL REFUGEES WHICH
HE HAS AGREED TO DO. FOREIGN MINISTRY REFUGEE AFFAIRS
OFFICIALS ARE HOPEFUL THAT BELGIUM WILL EVENTUALLY ESTAB-
LISH A 1978 RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM FOR 150 INDOCHINESE
AND 150 LATIN AMERICAN REFUGEES AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY
24 MILLION BF. THE COMPLICATING ISSUE AT THE MOMENT

IS BUDGETARY SITUATION AND THE SERIOUS BELGIAN GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO CUT EXPENSES IN ORDER TO MEET A BUDGETARY SHORTFALL ESTIMATED AT UP TO 100 BILLION BF.

3. THE NEW BELGIAN REFUGEE PROGRAM FOR 1978, WHEN ACCEPTED, WILL BE IN ADDITION TO CONTINUING BELGIAN EFFORTS TO REUNIFY DIVIDED FAMILIES, CONDUCTED UNDER THE BROAD GUIDELINES REPORTED IN 77 BRUSSELS A-174. AN ESTIMATED 5-6-- INDOCHINESE WOULD BE ACCEPTED TO REJOIN FAMILY MEMBERS LIVING IN BELGIUM UNDER THIS PROGRAM, IF THEY CAN OBTAIN EXIT PERMITS FROM THEIR COUNTRIES.

4. BELGIAN REFUGEE AFFAIRS OFFICER, JEAN DESY, WILL BE IN GENEVA FOR ICEM MEETING LATER THIS WEEK. WE SUGGEST THAT U.S. MISSION GENEVA OFFICERS, KNOWLEDGEABLE IN REFUGEE AFFAIRS, MIGHT TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS TWO ADDITIONAL MATTERS MR. DESY RAISED WITH US. FIRST, HE TOLD US THAT THE PRESENT UNHCR EFFORTS IN AREAS SUCH AS AFRICA HAD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATED REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS IN EUROPE. ACCORDING TO DESY, UNHCR FUNDS PROVIDED BY EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS NOW GO ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS IN AREAS OTHER THAN IN EUROPE. THEREFORE, EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS MUST REAPPROACH THEIR PARLIAMENTS FOR FUNDS FOR THEIR OWN PROGRAMS. HE TOLD US THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR REFUGEES TWICE. SECONDLY, DESY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 05042 141952Z

SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED A DECLINE IN USG INTEREST IN AND FUNDING FOR ICEM. HE WONDERED, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL FOR FREE WORLD COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS THE FULL RANGE OF REFUGEE PROBLEMS AND EXISTING MECHANISMS IN ORDER TO RATIONALIZE THE HANDLING OF REFUGEES ON A FREE WORLD WIDE BASIS. CHAMBERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE05042
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780114-0667
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780373/aaaacjna.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1f7f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 61868
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3345698
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN INTEREST IN INDOCHINESE REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, BE, XC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1f7f5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014